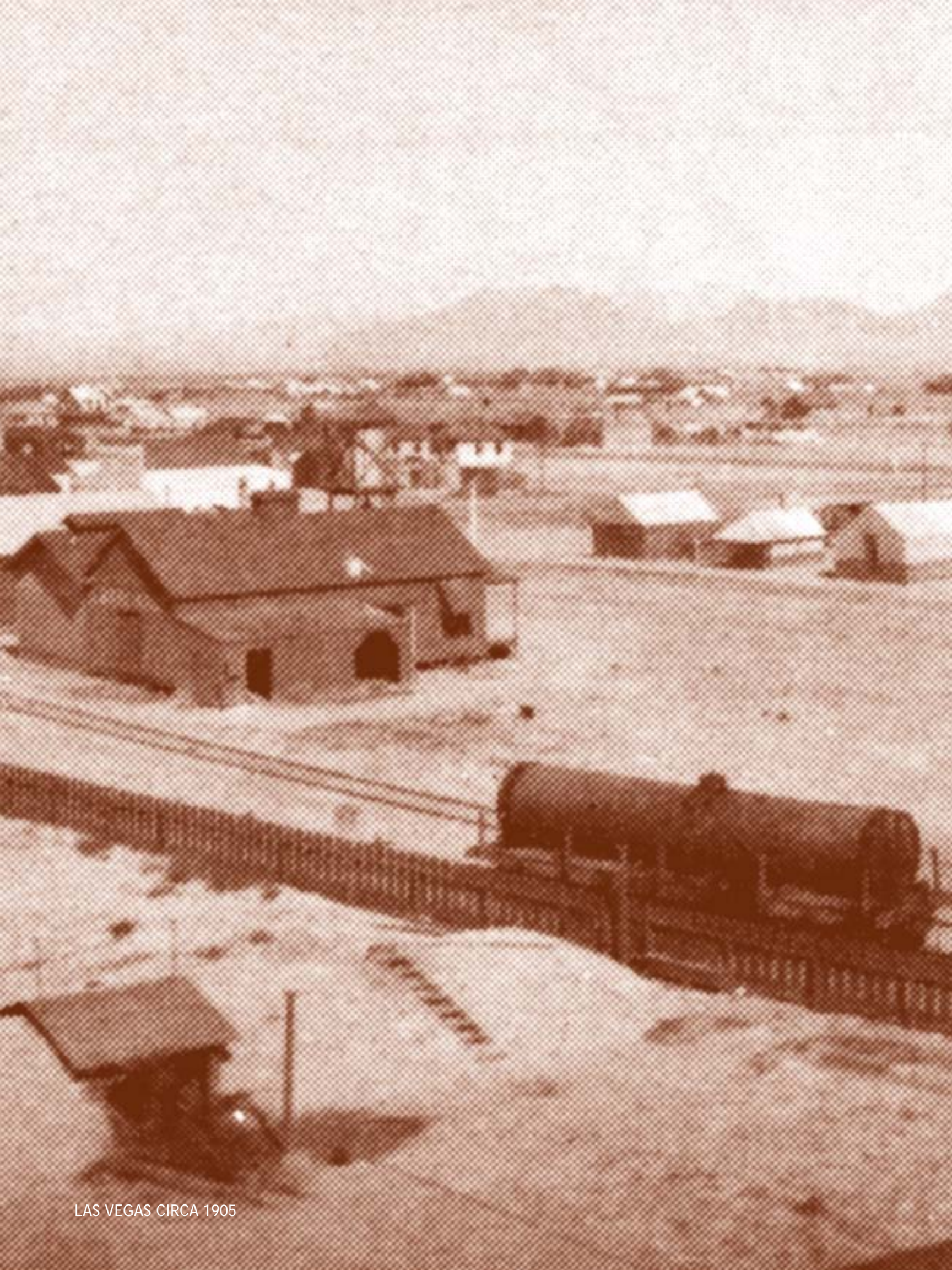


# 100 YEARS

City of Las Vegas 2005

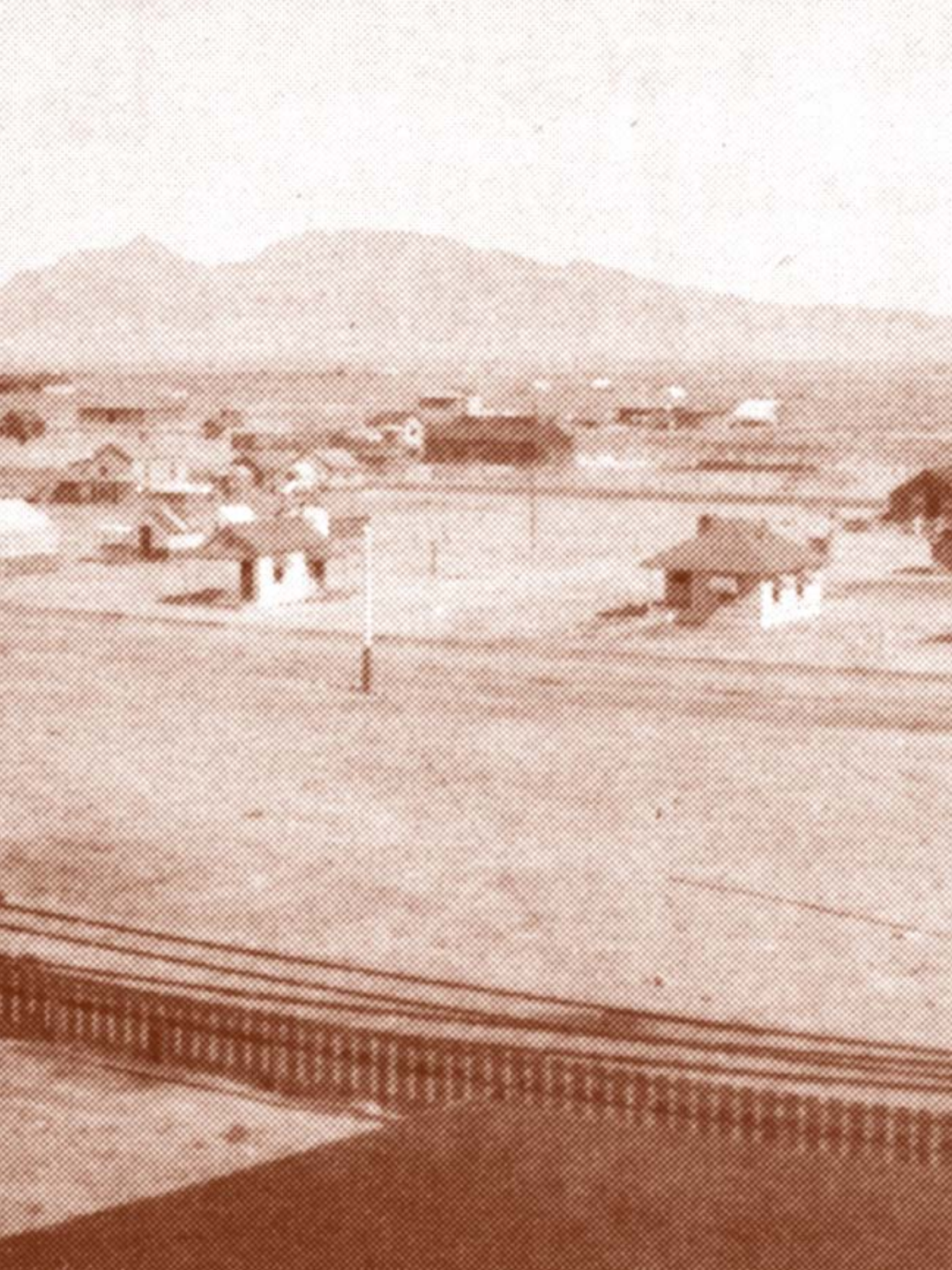






LAS VEGAS CIRCA 1905





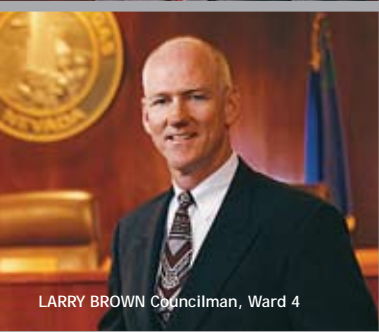




OSCAR B. GOODMAN Mayor



GARY REESE Mayor Pro Tem, Ward 3



LARRY BROWN Councilman, Ward 4



LAWRENCE WEEKLY Councilman, Ward 5



STEVE WOLFSON Councilman, Ward 2



LOIS TARKANIAN Councilwoman, Ward 1



STEVEN D. ROSS Councilman, Ward 6



Being a member of the Las Vegas City Council during the city's Centennial year is truly a once-in-a-lifetime event. Rafael Rivera first looked upon our valley he named "The Meadows" in the early 1700's, and we, too, have watched the city grow during our tenure, which culminated with the city's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in 2005.

We are a diverse council representing a diverse city of approximately 576,000 people, which has evolved over its 100 year history. It is our hope that although we will not be here to celebrate the city's next 100 year milestone, we will have left a rich legacy for future residents who will call Las Vegas home.

From our new East Las Vegas Community Senior Center, which caters to our growing Hispanic population, to the city's newest regional park, which offers recreation for people of all ages, the city is rich in heritage.

We have been on the cutting edge of urban planning, as illustrated by our proposed Kyle Canyon Gateway Plan, which is envisioned to be a sustainable community, helping to preserve our natural resources. We have also established a master plan for Summerlin West, which will be home to many residents over the next 100 years.

As a council we have faced head on the obstacles of a growing city. In 2005 we marked the opening of several new affordable housing developments, including Sundance Village, which was renovated thanks to funding from the city of Las Vegas.

We are also reaching new heights, quite literally, with the development of high-rise residential towers, as the city grows and matures.

As we look to the future, we are also making sure we preserve our past for future generations, as we transform the city's first grammar school and federal courthouse into cultural centers.

It is especially fitting that we are returning to our roots on 61 acres of land that started it all on May 15, 1905, when 110 parcels were auctioned off by the San Pedro Rail Lines to form Las Vegas. We are developing this acreage to serve our future residents and take us to the next level of sophistication. Our vision is to turn this into a cultural marketplace featuring an academic medical center, performing arts center, residential and more.

A Centennial doesn't come around every year, and as members of the Las Vegas City Council we feel fortunate to have been able to celebrate this great milestone with the citizens of Las Vegas. We are proud to be your City Council.

For 100 years this city has prospered and been a jewel in the desert.

Here's to the next 100 years. ♦

*Oscar B. Goodman* *Lawrence Weekly* *Lois Tarkanian*  
*Gary Reese* *Larry Brown* *Steve Wolfson* *Steven D. Ross*





## The Executive Team



**T**hese are amazing times in Southern Nevada. In its first 100 years, our community has grown from a dusty railroad stop to a world-class city. Even in their wildest dreams, our early founders could have never foreseen the incredible story that is Las Vegas.

In this Centennial year, we have taken the time to remember our roots and to dream of the next 100 years. The purpose of this publication is to note some of the significant accomplishments by the city of Las Vegas in this special year. Those accomplishments help give some perspective to just how far our city has come. They also illustrate that to become one of the finest cities in the world; it takes a fine organization of dedicated elected officials and employees to support the dream.

Overcoming challenges is not new for the city of Las Vegas. The first annual report created by the city in 1949 proves this. Issues of growth, public safety and ensuring a high quality of life were on the minds of city leaders in those days. That annual report, covering the year 1948, is referenced in this publication and will give you some unique and historic

comparisons. In the spirit of creating another publication to help mark an important milestone for the city, this publication is respectfully dedicated.

All these years later, our community has grown by leaps and bounds in virtually every way, and so has the dedication of city staff. Every day, your city employees work to bring you the best in customer service by using the latest technologies and innovations. I firmly believe that for Las Vegas to be what it is today, the City Council and city staff have played a key role through their many accomplishments.

As city manager I look forward to the challenges of planning a city even greater in the next 100 years. ♦

*Douglas Selby*

Douglas A. Selby  
Las Vegas City Manager



# Mission

To provide residents, visitors and the business community with the highest quality municipal services in an efficient, courteous manner and to enhance the quality of life through planning and visionary leadership.



## Priorities

CREATE, INTEGRATE AND MANAGE ORDERLY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF OUR COMMUNITY.

MANAGE COST AND REVENUE RESOURCES TO ACHIEVE EFFICIENT OPERATIONS.

SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABILITY, LIVABILITY AND PRIDE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS.

AGGRESSIVELY ATTRACT AND RETAIN DIVERSE BUSINESSES.

PROMOTE HEALTHY LIFESTYLES FOR ALL SEGMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY.

PROMOTE AN OPEN GOVERNMENT WHICH ALLOWS ACCESS, PARTICIPATION AND RESPECTFUL COMMUNICATION.

PROVIDE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES AND VISITORS USING A COMMUNITY ORIENTED APPROACH.

REVITALIZE AND INVIGORATE OUR MATURE AREAS AND THE URBAN CORE.





## Remembering the Past

Throughout its history Las Vegas has always been a city riding the wave of boom periods. In 1905 a transportation boom in the form of railroads helped to establish the city. Later, the construction of the Hoover Dam brought an influx of new workers to Las Vegas and during World War II the military took an interest in the city, causing another boom period.

The coming of the mega-resorts coincided with another population boom, and today the city of Las Vegas remains one of the fastest growing areas in the country. Recent years have seen as many as 5,700 new residents move to our valley each month, pushing the city's population to 575,973, as of July 1, 2005, and 1,752,240 valleywide. The city of Las Vegas is now the 24th largest city in the United States.

Today, the city and its employees strive to meet the needs of its citizens through a commitment to personal and fiscal integrity; honesty; innovation, respect for the individual difference and worth of every person, and taking pride in our work and dedication to public service. ♦



## Looking Toward the Future







61  
ACRES

CIRCA, 1990

The first housing tract in the city of Las Vegas consisted of 64 bungalow-style cottages built in 1910 to house railroad workers. What started out as a dusty railroad stop is now growing into the core of the new Las Vegas, where the city is working to create a place for residents to live, work and play.

This year, 11 major development projects have been completed in the downtown area, 15 are under construction and more than 60 are being planned. A 61-acre parcel of undeveloped land is adjacent to the site of the 1905 land auction that started Las Vegas. One hundred years later the same area now holds the key to the city's future.

Planners envision the 61 acres becoming an epicenter of commerce, medicine and culture, surrounded by a revitalized downtown featuring walkable neighborhoods, shops and restaurants weaving around high-rise residential towers. The unlimited possibilities Las Vegas promised in 1905 are no less exciting 100 years later. ♦



61 ACRES



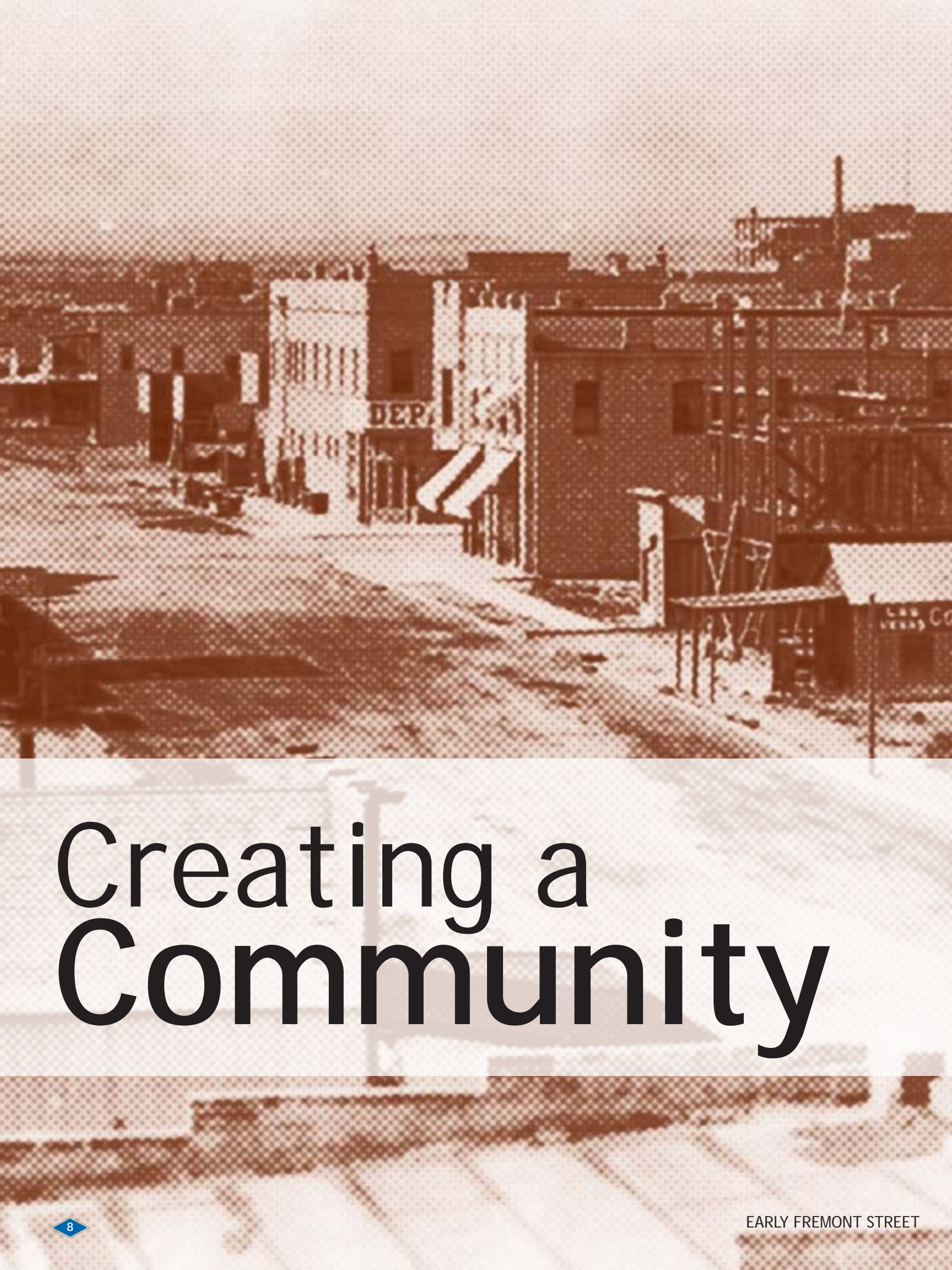
LAS VEGAS PREMIUM OUTLETS



Soho Lofts







# Creating a Community



Even in the early days of Las Vegas and its railroad workers, community was an essential component. Railroad companies provided plots of land for three churches and a school. And while the men tended to business, women devoted their time to the development of culture and religion. ♦

# Downtown Senior Center



Community continues to be a focal point of Las Vegas. As the population continues to diversify, the city strives to meet the needs of residents of all ages. In recent years there has been a continued focus on providing services for youth and seniors.

In 2006, the city will celebrate the opening of the new 22,000-square-foot Downtown Senior Services Center, located at Ninth Street and Bridger Avenue. The center will provide a central location where seniors in Las Vegas can access services, including free legal assistance, food for those who are low-income and medical health services. Seniors will also have an opportunity to mentor at-risk elementary school students through the Foster Grandparent Program. ♦







# 18 Recreation Centers



**R**ecreation and community were key priorities for the city even in the early days. In the city's first annual report written in 1949, the city manager wrote, "It is this department that tests tomorrow's belief in the community and today's ability to cope with the successful application of 'leisure time.'"

In the early days of Las Vegas, the majority of town encompassed one square mile – today, the city's newest park stretches one mile in length and offers recreational choices for the entire family.

In 1949 the city had only two recreation centers and two swimming pools, and the city now boasts 18 recreation centers and seven pools. The early recreation centers offered some of the same activities and events that the city offers today, including sports leagues, swim meets, free movie nights and community meetings.

The newly completed Washington Buffalo Park is 107.8 acres and includes such amenities as 11 lighted soccer fields, a dog park, a walking trail and 23 tennis courts. This park and other new parks in the city are setting a new standard for recreation options. The Washington Buffalo complex will carry Las Vegas into the 21st century, providing a world-class venue for national tennis tournaments and regional soccer games. ♦



# 7 Pools



Civic involvement and community participation have been key in the development of Las Vegas. In the early years, voters elected city commissioners. The commission later became the City Council. In addition to City Commission meetings, the city in its early days had three town hall meetings. Some 100 people attended and tackled such issues as whether to change the status of several city positions, namely city attorney, city clerk and city judge, to being appointed rather than elected, and whether to install new parking meters in the city.

In 2004 the city brought citizen participation to a new level by actively recruiting citizens to participate in the Citizen's Leadership Academy. To date, there have been 49 graduates from all walks of life who got a behind-the-scenes look at government services. This seven-week, hands-on program features a series of interactive workshops, facility tours and discussions with city leaders. ♦



Darling Tennis Center











Lieutenant Jeff DuFrene



Marshal Brent Carlin



During the Centennial year the city's deputy city marshals not only continued to provide law enforcement services to citizens, but were also tasked with sending officers to Mississippi to assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina. These marshals and other first responders from the city of Las Vegas helped to reestablish devastated communities along the Gulf Coast. ♦

## Hurricane Survivors Welcome Help from City Marshals





Planning the city of Las Vegas was certainly easier in the early days when land was abundant and concerns over water were not on everyone's mind. Still, early planners laid the groundwork for a city that is still changing and reinventing itself even today. ♦

# Groundwork of a City







The city's first engineer, Howard Gier, started working for the city in 1941. Various projects during his watch included building curbs and gutters on Bonneville Avenue and the resurfacing of Lewis Avenue. Former Street Superintendent Mike Leavitt saw many of the same challenges we face today. In 2004 alone, the Field Operations Department maintained 1,247 miles of paved and gravel roadways. The department, through the Streets and Sanitation Division, also maintained 90 miles of Regional Flood Control facilities in 2004, including 12 detention basins.

The Public Works Department has also excelled at planning, designing, constructing, operating and maintaining city public use facilities, the roadway and traffic network, and wastewater and stormwater management systems, which have earned the department prestigious recognitions.

The department was recently accredited by the American Public Works Association, making it only the 23rd public works department in the nation and the first city in Nevada to earn this lofty status.

In the world of public works, APWA accreditation is the highest standard of excellence an agency can attain. The Public Works Department has grown from its humble beginning and now plans, designs, builds, operates and maintains city public use facilities with more than 400 employees in a city that grows by thousands of residents each month. ➤

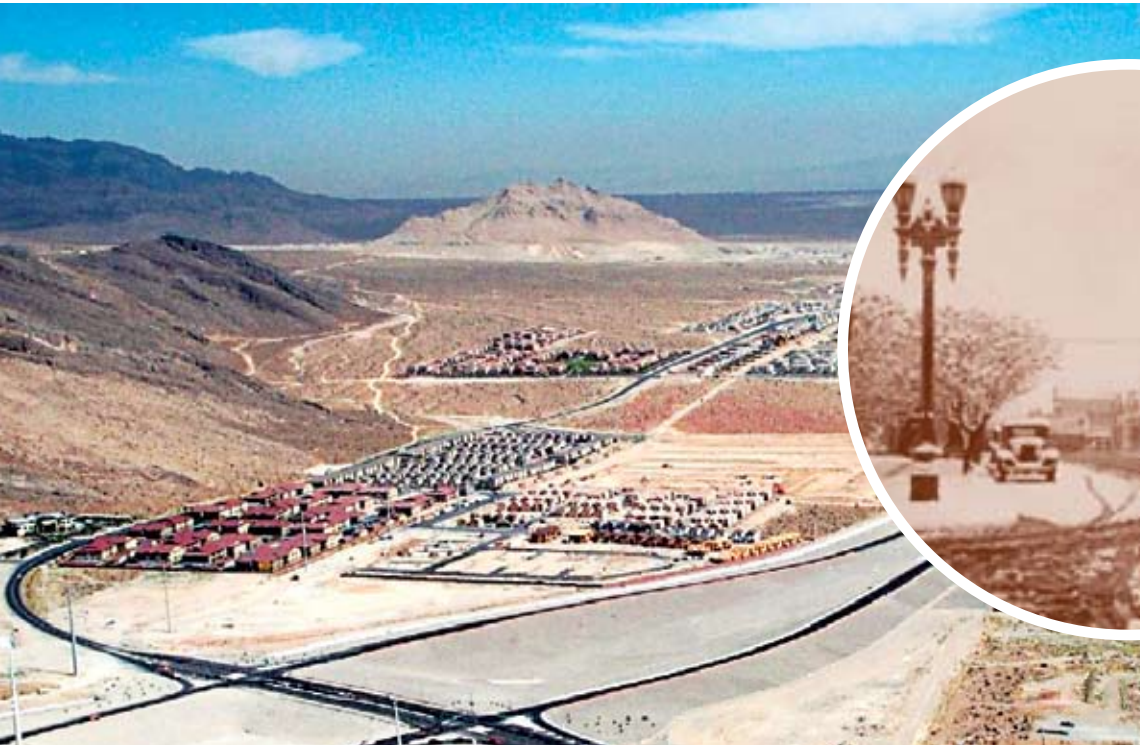




**A**s explosive population growth continues in the Las Vegas valley, the city consistently has the best turnaround times for builders to get their plans reviewed. An initial plan review usually takes no longer than five days at the city, saving weeks of time compared to other jurisdictions.

In 2005 the city completed 250,000 building inspections and issued 3,849 permits for single family homes. The Centennial year marked the 11th consecutive year of more than \$1 billion spent by developers for construction in the city.

The city's office of Building and Safety is also the first in the nation to apply for accreditation by the International Accreditation Service. ♦



**T**he city's newest fire station recently opened in East Las Vegas, and the city's 16th station is scheduled to break ground in early 2006. In the early days of Las Vegas the city's lone fire station was housed in a garage near where the Golden Gate Hotel Casino is today. The station included two trucks, and only one dispatcher who handled calling out volunteer firefighters and police.

The newly opened Fire Station 8 houses its own engine company and paramedic ambulance with a crew of six firefighters on duty each shift, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In addition to keeping up with the need for more and more fire stations, the city's Fire and Rescue Department has also become a leader in emergency management, regularly testing emergency responders in drills such as this year's Operation Loaded Dice, which included 1,000 first responders, government officials, volunteers, evaluators and actors playing the part of the injured. ♦





# 15 Fire Stations



**F**or a city to thrive it must rely on a foundation of people to provide the services that the public demands.

Elections, record stewardship and the administration of justice are just some of the functions that the city of Las Vegas takes pride in providing. ♦

# Foundation of a Government

## Records Bureau Under Construction

In the city's first annual report published in 1949, it was written that the city clerk, Mrs. Shirley Ballinger, "embraced a large number of tasks, one of the most important and time consuming was her job as clerk of the city board of commissioners."

Much has changed since 1911, when duties were handled by one person and today the clerk's duties have greatly expanded. No time was that more evident than in 2005. While we were celebrating the city's 100th birthday, the City Clerk's Office was planning for a Special Election and the regular Municipal Election – Primary and General Elections – all in a matter of six months. Even with the hectic pace, the clerk managed to successfully orchestrate all the elections and introduced a new technology, touch-screen electronic voting machines. ♦





# 25 Years of Excellence

**F**iscal responsibility has always been a priority at the city of Las Vegas. Accounting was originally a responsibility of the City Clerk, until 1945 when a comptroller was established to manage the city's finances.

Now the staff in the Finance and Business Services Department manages a budget of more than \$1 billion per year with a scope of services and facilities that early Las Vegas residents probably never imagined. For the last quarter century the city has been recognized each year for excellence in financial reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. ♦



**T**o create greater financial accountability, the city created a City Auditor's Office in May 1998, which reports to the mayor and City Council through an Audit Committee comprised of two council members and three outside professionals. The office performs evaluations of the city's operations, special projects requested by the City Council and internal fraud investigations. The City Auditor's Office creates reports that include recommendations for improving the city's operations and internal controls. ♦



Lorenzi Park

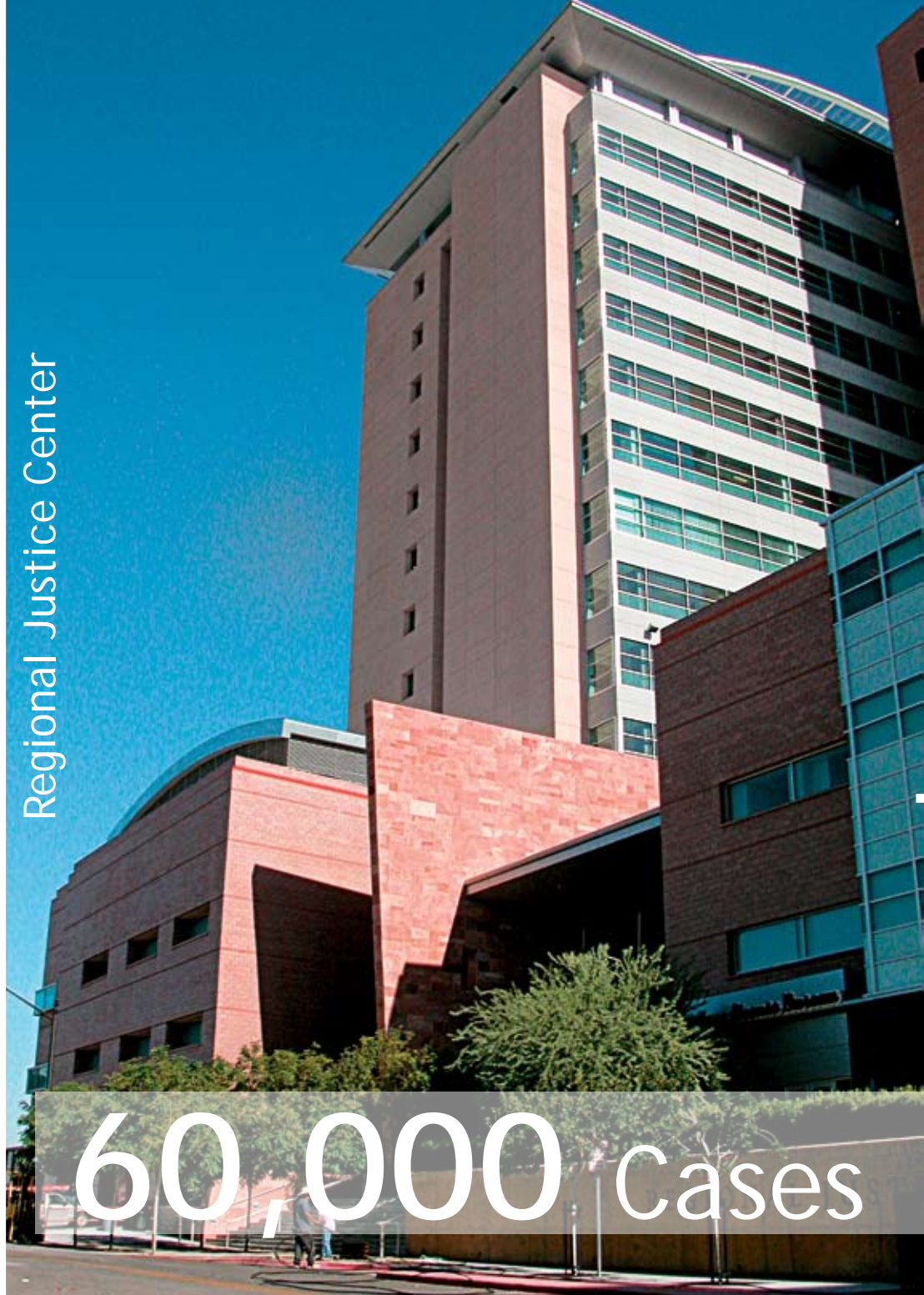


The first Las Vegas Municipal Court judge was appointed in 1911, and that judgeship was the only one until a second judge was appointed in 1969. Today, there are six elected Municipal Court judges as the court and the city of Las Vegas continue to grow. Over the years many diverse functions have been added to the court, ranging from a respected domestic violence program to online traffic school.

The Municipal Court and the City Attorney's Criminal Division now offer all of their services in one convenient location, the Regional Justice Center. ♦



Regional Justice Center



60,000 Cases




In 1948 the City Attorney's Office had many of the same responsibilities that the current office has, including the revision and codification of city ordinances. The major difference is in the workload that the office had then compared to now.

In 1911 a total of 1,910 new cases were opened by the City Attorney's Office in Municipal Court, but now the office opens more than 60,000 cases a year. ♦

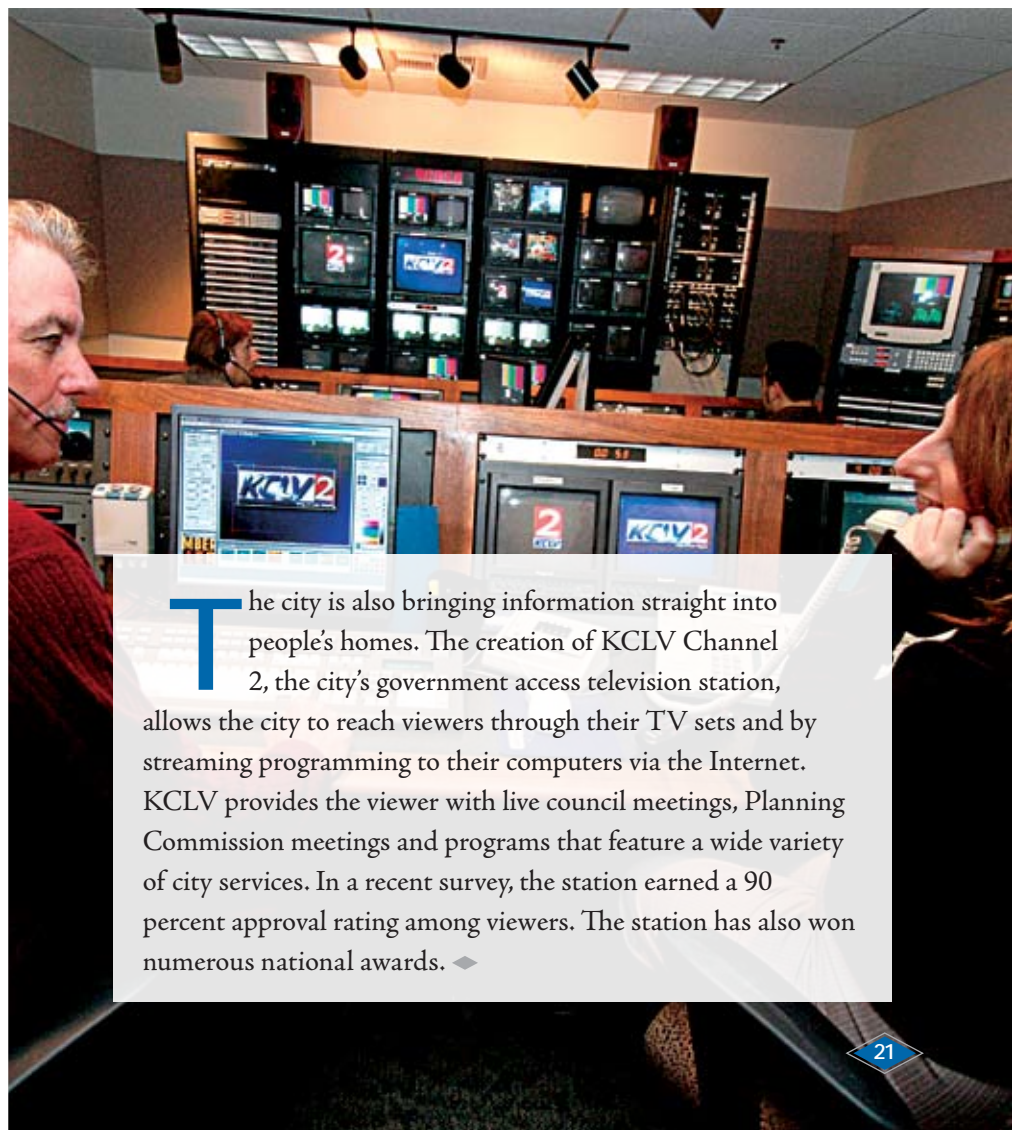


# Technology



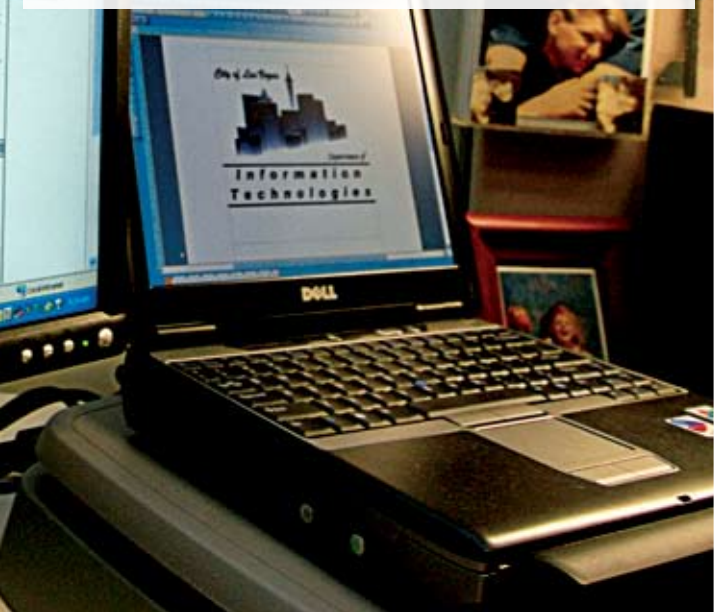
**T**he city of Las Vegas is using technology in new ways to make it easier for the public to access services and do business with the city. In no other area has the city seen so much change in the last 100 years. ♦

Bringing City Government Closer To You



**I**t became evident in the early days of Las Vegas that serving the men and women who would call this city home would be a top priority. In 1948, City Hall expanded to a second story when the American Legion relocated. City Hall has grown from a few hundred employees to more than 2,600 full-time employees, and the city is making it easier for people to find jobs within city government.

Residents can now apply for city jobs online and find civil service test-taking tips. There are also links to other government agencies with job openings. ♦



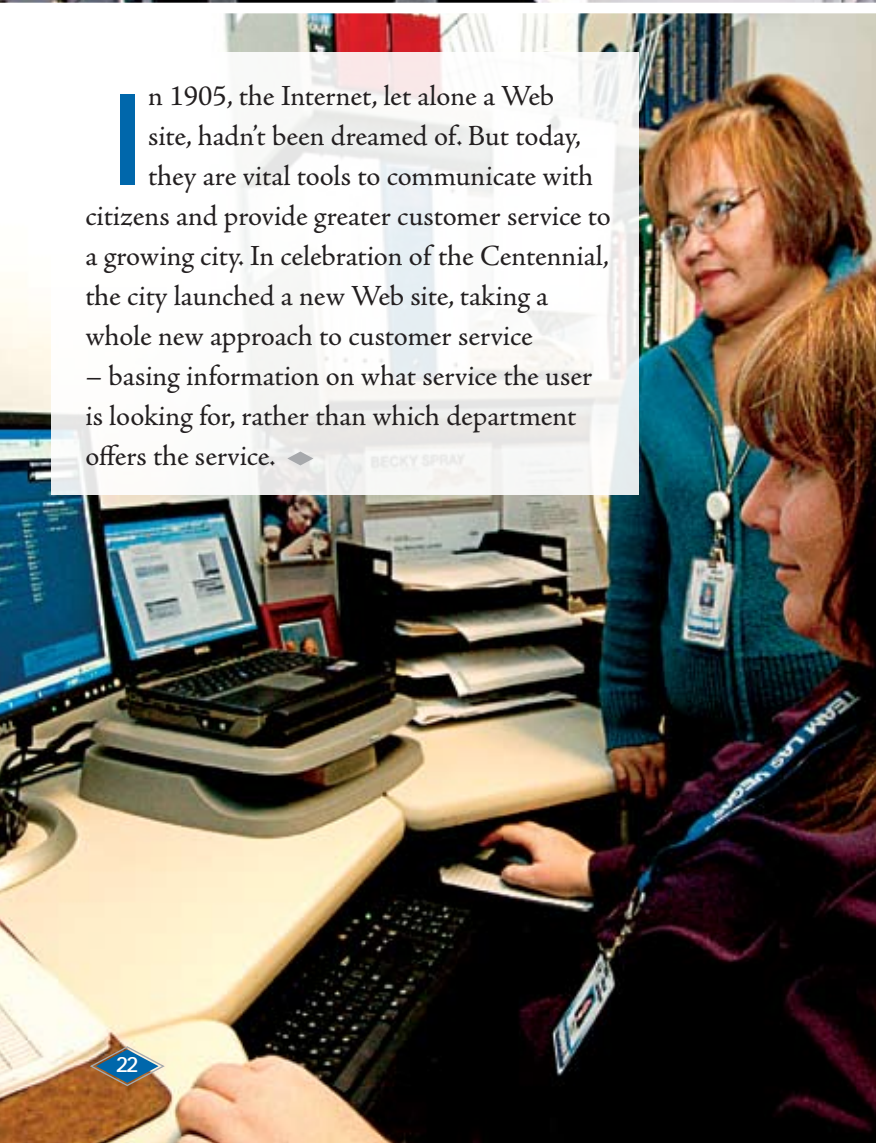
**T**he city is also bringing information straight into people's homes. The creation of KCLV Channel 2, the city's government access television station, allows the city to reach viewers through their TV sets and by streaming programming to their computers via the Internet. KCLV provides the viewer with live council meetings, Planning Commission meetings and programs that feature a wide variety of city services. In a recent survey, the station earned a 90 percent approval rating among viewers. The station has also won numerous national awards. ♦





## Mobile Animal Shelter

In the case of an emergency, the city has a new tool in place to make sure all residents, even the furry, four-legged variety, are safe. The city debuted its new Mobile Emergency Animal Shelter in 2005, which gives the city the capability to save the lives of animals and reunite them with their owners in the event of an emergency. The shelter can also serve as a surgical suite to outfit animals with tiny microchips so that they can be tracked if lost. ♦



In 1905, the Internet, let alone a Web site, hadn't been dreamed of. But today, they are vital tools to communicate with citizens and provide greater customer service to a growing city. In celebration of the Centennial, the city launched a new Web site, taking a whole new approach to customer service – basing information on what service the user is looking for, rather than which department offers the service. ♦

BECKY SPRAY



The city has had parking meters since 1948, when 700 meters were installed on a trial basis. Now, citizens can use credit cards to pay fees at some downtown parking meters, and can even use their cell phone to add time to those meters. ♦



# Centennial Celebration

After 100 years the city of Las Vegas took time to remember the past and savor the prospects for the future during 2005's Centennial celebration. Events ranged from small community gatherings to massive events that garnered worldwide interest, and everything was done with a style that can only be found in Las Vegas.

The city spent the better part of 2005 not only partying but

celebrating the city's diversity and unique history. Hundreds of events occurred, including a mass wedding under the lights at the Fremont Street Experience, the unveiling of scores of community murals, a concert with the Red Hot Chili Peppers on July 4, the Aviation Nation Air Show, and of course, a lot of cake. ♦



## 130,000 Pounds of Cake

One of the sweetest Centennial events involved the creation of the world's largest birthday cake, weighing in at more than 130,000 pounds and measuring 102 feet long, 52 feet wide and 20 inches deep. It took about 1,000 volunteers more than 15 hours to construct the cake. A total of 30,240 individual half-sheet cakes were used to build the behemoth that was iced with approximately 34,000 pounds of frosting. ♦

Centennial Concert



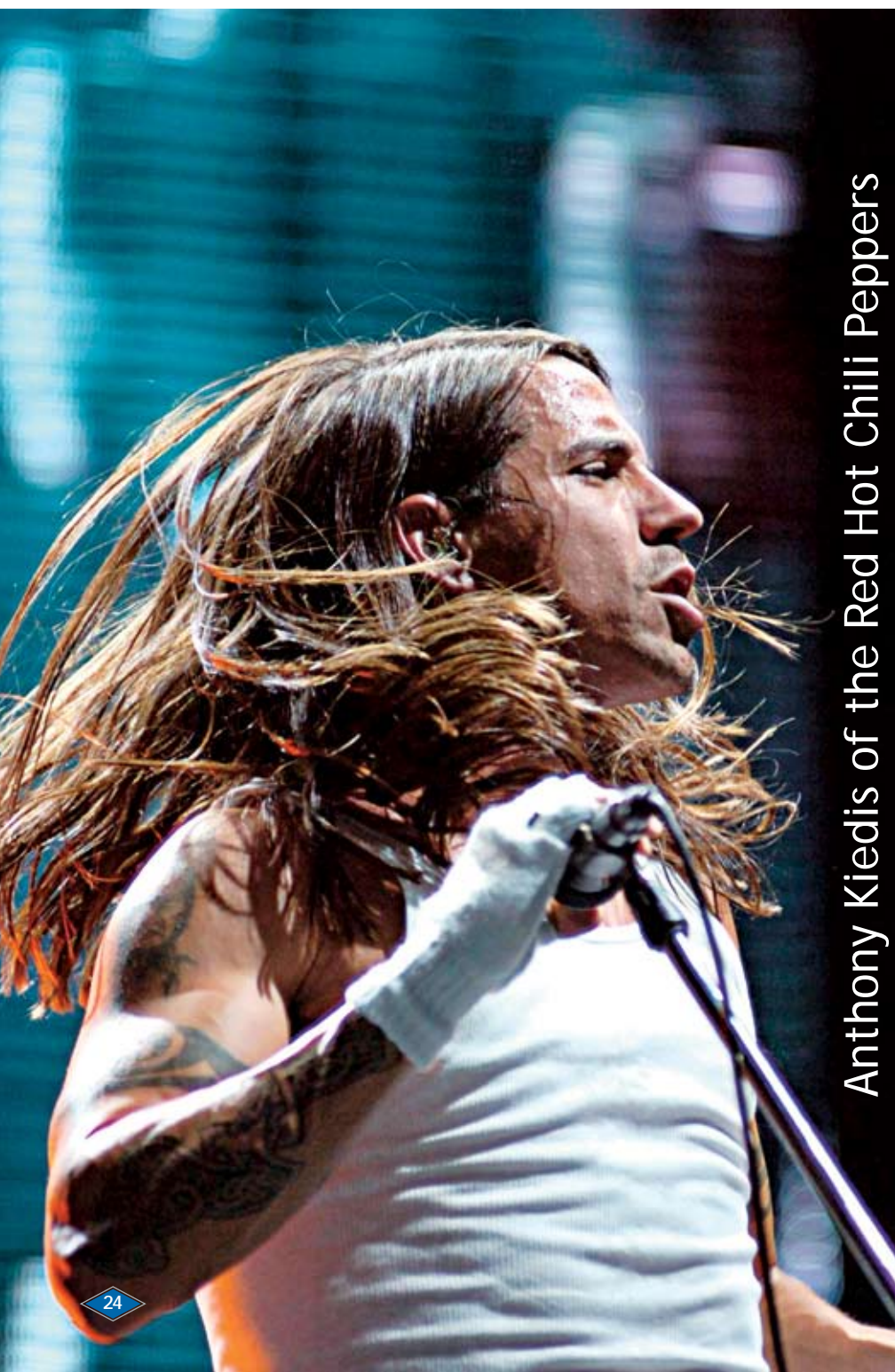
Las Vegas Turns 100







Rose Parade Float



Anthony Kiedis of the Red Hot Chili Peppers

Longtime residents and families also shared stories about the rise of a small town to a big city. Residents who shared the city's birthday on May 15, celebrated together. Celebrations were planned throughout the city, in neighborhoods, hotels, streets, parks and in the hearts of residents and tourists alike.

The city even took its party on the road, with the help of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA). The LVCVA sponsored a Centennial float in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California, which was watched by more than 27.9 million television viewers. The last time Las Vegas had a float in the Rose Parade was 1954. ♦



Flying Elvi

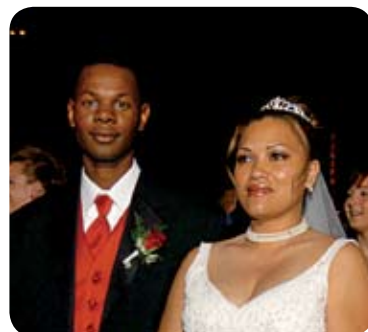




# ONCE UPON 100 weddings



A dream came true for 100 happy couples who tied the knot under the lights at the Fremont Street Experience as part of "Once Upon 100 Weddings." ♦





# Helldorado Returns

In honor of Las Vegas' 100th birthday, the city brought back Helldorado Days, the oldest and most revered community event that began in 1935 and celebrated our town's Western roots. The city returned to those roots during the Helldorado Day Parade that made its way up Fourth Street on May 14 before a crowd of 80,000. The city also recreated the 1905 land auction that started it all when 110 acres of land situated downtown were auctioned off by the San Pedro Rail Lines.

In order to capture the memories and excitement of 2005's celebration the city buried a time capsule in Centennial Plaza. The time capsule will be opened by our descendants in the year 2105. ♦



While Las Vegas looks toward its

next 100 years, the city is also determined to ensure that the past is remembered for future generations. The

original homes of Las Vegas' first residents, railroad workers from the San

Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroads, are being relocated to the Las Vegas Springs Preserve.

Four of these historic concrete block homes will be saved and placed inside the preserve, a site that once featured three natural springs and was a gathering place for Native Americans and later pioneers and early settlers.

Planners envision the Las Vegas Springs Preserve serving as a regional park and center of historical and cultural activities in the coming years. ♦

## Aviation Nation



The city's first federal courthouse is also being preserved for generations to come. The facility was built by the federal government and was the site of the 1950 Kefauver hearings into organized crime and the site of numerous criminal proceedings. In the coming years it will be transformed into a cultural center that will feature exhibition space that will be devoted to the history of the city that took shape in the courthouse, highlighting the era of the 1930's through the 1960's. ♦





## LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL

**Oscar B. Goodman**  
Mayor

**Gary Reese**  
Mayor Pro Tem, Ward 3

**Larry Brown**  
Councilman, Ward 4

**Lawrence Weekly**  
Councilman, Ward 5

**Steve Wolfson**  
Councilman, Ward 2

**Lois Tarkanian**  
Councilwoman, Ward 1

**Steven D. Ross**  
Councilman, Ward 6

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City Manager

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City Attorney

**Radford Snelding**  
City Auditor

**Steven P. Houchens**  
Deputy City Manager

**Elizabeth N. Fretwell**  
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**Scott Adams**  
Director, Office of Business Development

**James Carmany**  
Municipal Court Administrator

**F. Claudette Enus**  
Director, Human Resources

**Larry Haugsness**  
Director, Field Operations

**Barbara Jackson**  
Director, Leisure Services

**Charlie Kajkowski**  
Director, Public Works

**Chris Knight**  
Director, Office of Administrative Services

**Joseph Marcella**  
Director, Information Technologies

**Ted Olivas**  
Director, Government and Community Affairs

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Director, Office of Communications

**Barbara Jo (Roni) Ronemus**  
City Clerk

**Orlando Sanchez**  
Director, Neighborhood Services

**Mike Sheldon**  
Chief, Detention and Enforcement

**Mark Vincent**  
Director, Finance & Business Services

**David L. Washington**  
Chief, Fire & Rescue

**Margo Wheeler**  
Director, Planning & Development

**Paul Wilkins**  
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Centennial Murals

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LAS VEGAS 2005



